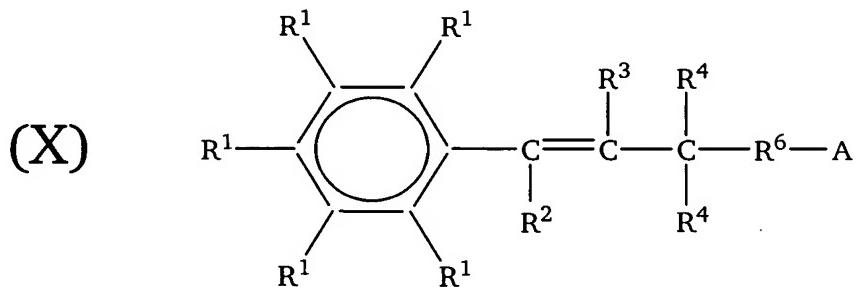


Claims:

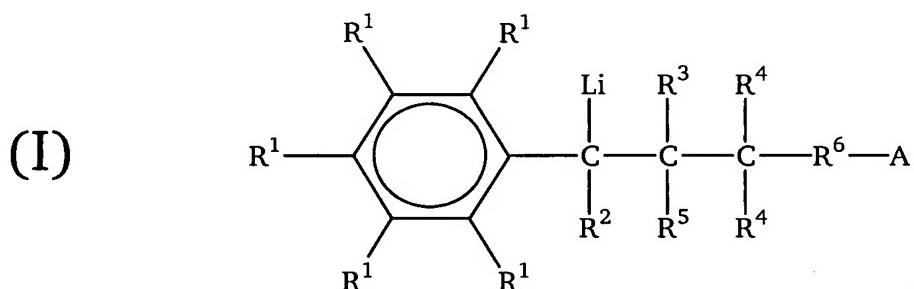
1. (previously presented) A process for preparing a functionalized anionic polymerization initiator, the process comprising:

combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compound is defined by the formula X



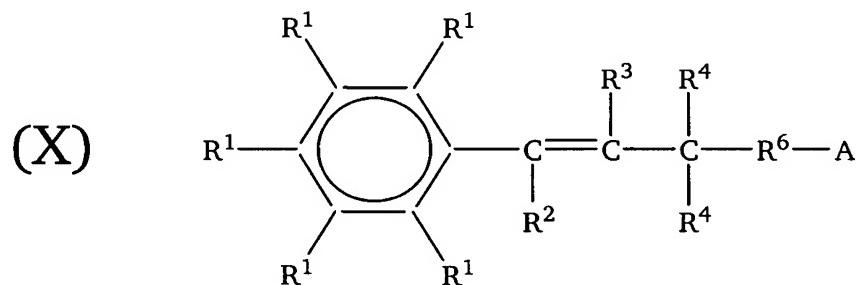
where each R¹ is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R² is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R³ is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R⁴ is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R⁶ is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

2. (Currently amended) An anionic polymerization initiator defined according to the formula I:



where each R¹ is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R² is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R³ is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R⁴ is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R⁵ is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbyl group, where at least one of R³ or R⁵ is hydrocarbyl, R⁶ is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group selected from the group consisting of amine groups, phosphines groups, ether groups, thio ether groups, seleno groups, silyl groups, alkyl tin groups, and short-chain thermoplastic polymer segments.

3. (Previously presented) A polymer prepared by a process of comprising the steps of:
 polymerizing monomer with an initiator that is prepared by combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compound is defined by the formula X



where each R¹ is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R² is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R³ is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R⁴ is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R⁶ is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

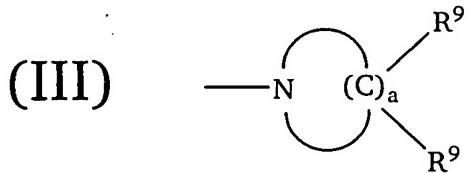
4. (cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl)-pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidine, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine,

-piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine, -trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacyclotridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicyclooctane, -perhydroisoquinoline, or -perhydroindole.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where said step of combining combines about 0.8 mmol of the functionalized styryl compound with about 1.0 mmol of the organolithium compound.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where step of combining occurs in the presence of about 1 to about 20 mmol of monomer in order to chain extend the initiator.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where the functional group A is defined by the formula III



where each R⁹ is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group and a is an integer from 4 to about 18.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized nucleophile.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized electrophile.

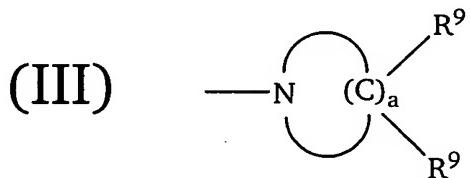
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidiene, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine, trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacyclotridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicyclooctane, -perhydroisoquinoline, or -perhydroindole.

13. (Previously presented) The polymer of claim 3, where said step of combining combines about 0.8 mmol of the functionalized styryl compound with about 1.0 mmol of the organolithium compound.

14. (Previously presented) The polymer of claim 3, where step of combining occurs in the presence of about 1 to about 20 mmol of monomer in order to chain extend the initiator.

15. (Previously presented) The polymer of claim 3, where the functional group A is defined by the formula III



where each R⁹ is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group and a is an integer from 4 to about 18.

16. (Previously presented) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized nucleophile.

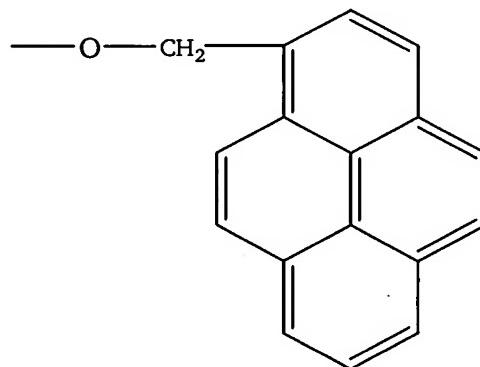
17. (Previously presented) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized electrophile.

18-20 cancelled

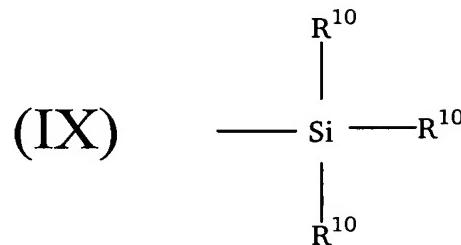
21. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a functionalized anionic polymerization initiator, the process comprising:

combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidene, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine, -trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacyclotridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicyclooctane, -perhydroisoquinoline, or -perhydroindole.

22. (New) The anionic polymerization initiator of claim 2, where the functional group includes an ether group defined by the formula



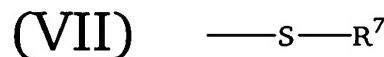
23. (New) The anionic polymerization initiator of claim 2, where functional group A includes a silyl group defined by the formula IX



where R^{10} is a hydrocarbyl group or an alkoxy group.

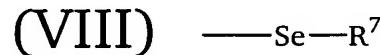
24. (New) The anionic polymerization initiator of claim 23, where the functional group is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl silyl, triethyl silyl, dimethoxy methyl silyl, and dimethyl methoxy silyl.

25. (New) The anionic polymerization initiator of claim 2, where the functional group is defined by the formula VII



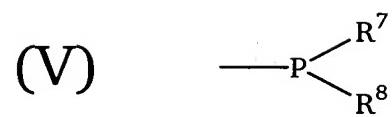
where R^7 is a hydrocarbyl group.

26. (New) The anionic polymerization initiator of claim 2, where the functional group is defined by the formula VIII



where R^7 is a hydrocarbyl group.

26. (New) The anionic polymerization initiator of claim 2, where the functional group is defined by the formula V



where each R⁷ and R⁸ is independently a hydrocarbyl group.